

LECTURE ON IRON AT SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Mr. S. H. Blackwell, F.G.S. of Dudley, lectured lately at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, on "the Ironmaking Resources of the United Kingdom." The lecturer commenced by calling attention to the principal features of the Great Exhibition of 1851, the importance of its influence on the arts, sciences, and manufactures, and to what extent the raising of that building itself showed the iron making resources of the country, on which in a great measure was based our manufacturing greatness, and which tended to bind all interests in one common bond of union. A rapid view was taken of the rise and progress of the iron manufacture in this country, which was divided into two periods,—first, from the earliest ages up to the time when coals were first attempted to be employed as smelting fuel,—and second, from that to the present time. The lecturer then said it was impossible not to be struck with the vast and inexhaustible supplies of iron and fuel which we possess, and with the wonderful fact that the extraordinary demand which railways and other requirements have produced, should have led not to an increased price, but to a constant discovery of new and cheaper sources of supply. The iron trade illustrates what appears to be a general law—that the natural resources of the world appear to be developed at the exact times when the progress of society most requires them, and when that progress is such as to enable us to avail ourselves to the greatest advantage of new discoveries. This was illustrated by allusion to the progress of the iron trade, railways, steam-boats, electric telegraph, the vast gold discoveries, and the rapid colonisation of Australasia and America, as also the progress which was making, and must rapidly extend, in our Indian possessions, where every mile of railway laid down will lead to an ever increasing demand, "all tending," to use the words of H.R.H. Prince Albert, "to the accomplishment of that end to which indeed all history points the realisation of the unity of mankind."

HELP YOURSELVES.—BUILDERS' FOREMEN.—At the anniversary dinner of the Builders' Foremen and Clerks' Benevolent Society, reported in our pages, Mr. Jeremiah Pilcher, in returning thanks for the toast of the city of London and its trade, observed that the list of subscriptions exhibited a great contrast between those who were the patrons and those who contributed for their own benefit. The small amount which the foremen and clerks gave was anything but satisfactory. These were persons who received a certain salary, and to whom the society should look for a large increase of revenue, it being founded entirely for their benefit. Supposing each foreman and clerk contributed a certain sum, although a small amount weekly, the sum so received would soon amount to something very considerable: indeed, they might fairly expect to see almshouses speedily raised for the aged and infirm, and for those who might be unable to work from accident, to which the nature of their calling subjected them: he, the speaker, trusted that this hint would not be lost sight of, and that when they next met, the report would show a decided improvement in their funds through the adoption of it.

THE FOUNTAIN AT BILLINGSMERE, which we said was contemplated when we published our view and account of the new buildings there, has been set up. It is of cast iron, and consists of a basin about 15 feet in diameter, with a stem in the centre composed of rushes, from which water will rise to some height. Over the lip of the basin, at regular intervals, lie twelve dolphins, which will discharge water for the use of the market-people.

FINSBURY PARK.—A correspondent, "W.N." wishes to be informed whether the Finsbury Park scheme is alive or abandoned, as he sees that some one has marked with a railing the plan of a road through the fields proposed for the park; and he asks if this be for building purposes. We fear from what we have heard that nothing has been done as to the projected park, but perhaps some other correspondent may be able to give us the most recent news as to it.

SELF-SUSTAINING SYSTEM OF SEWAGE REMOVAL.—Mr. T. A. Yarrow, C.E. (formerly surveyor for the county of Chester, but now resident in London), has been engaged, it appears, to report upon the drainage of Coventry, and in a pamphlet, developing a plan for saving the sewage of towns and applying it to agricultural purposes, he says:—"The means I propose to adopt are those suggested by Prince Albert, consisting of a rapid filter of peculiar construction; and the deodorant and absorbent employed in the process is peat charcoal, now produced at small cost from the bogs in Ireland. The plan consists of an application of the sewage filter at the outlet of the main sewer, by means of which sewage will be deprived of its colouring and offensive matter, and made to pass off in a perfectly clear state. After a certain time the charcoal in the filter will require to be renewed, when a little granulated charcoal must be added to the solid matter retained in the tank, and in a few minutes the whole mass will assume the form of a dry, portable, and inodorous manure, ready for packing in barrels or sacks, and capable of being transported by any mode of conveyance."

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY AT MALLOW has been erected for the Roman Catholic clergy of that district, from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. R. Brash, of Cork. It is in the style of the 15th century. The walling is composed of mountain sandstone, close grained and of a dark red colour, built in Randon ashlar, with vertical and horizontal joints, and contrasts with the light limestone of which all the dressings are formed, such as plinth, quoins, jambs, mullions, and labels of windows, door-cases, niches, &c. and the casements are cast-iron, of lozenge pattern, with bronze fastenings. All the ceiling-joints are moulded, and with the sound boarding, are to be finished in appropriate colours. All the woodwork is to be stained and varnished. The building contains drawing-room, dining-room, library, kitchen, pantries, &c. on the ground floor, with 9 sleeping apartments, oratory, and corridor on the upper floors. It is intended to erect a convent in the same style for the Sisters of Mercy, on ground adjoining the above, which is to contain schools and a refuge for destitute females.

STAINED GLASS, TRINITY CHURCH, MARYLEBONE.—A stained glass window, executed by Mr. Baillie, has been set up in the east window of Trinity Church, in the New-road. It is understood to be to the memory of Mr. H. St. George Tucker. From notices in some of the newspapers we expected to see a superior work, but must acknowledge our visit disappointed us. The window is divided into six compartments, three upper and three lower. The upper part of the centre compartment contains an emblem of the Trinity and Eternity in a panel, under which is inscribed, "Glory to God in the Highest;" and in a panel at the base in like manner, "Bethou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The remainder of the window is filled with unmeaning and ugly scrolls and foliage, which impart neither idea nor pleasure. It is stated, that the inhabitants propose filling the two side windows also with stained glass. In this case it is to be hoped Mr. Baillie will adopt a different style of glass.

GREENWICH PARK AND BLACKHEATH.—Workmen have just commenced breaking the ground, for laying down draining-pipes diagonally across the lawn between the Naval Asylum and Flamstead Hill. A new church at Blackheath is about to be erected at the cost of Mr. Angerstein, on a piece of ground between Myrtle-place and Shooter's-hill road.

WALDENIAN CHURCH, TURIN.—A Protestant journal, published in Turin, contains the following notice of the Evangelical Church erecting for Italian Protestants of that city:—"The works, which were resumed some days ago, are proceeding with great alacrity, and it is hoped that before the end of the season the church will be roofed in." An appeal has been made to the Protestants of this country to aid in the erection. In Glasgow, according to the *Christian Times*, about 500*l.* have been collected.

VALUE OF GROUND AT EDINBURGH.—In a submission between the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company and the magistrates of the city as to the ground in Princes-street-gardens taken by the company in carrying through their line from the Haymarket to the North bridge, and in which Mr. C. McGibbon, builder, on the part of the city, and Mr. James Smith, on the part of the company, were appointed arbiters, and ultimately Mr. L. A. Wallace, architect, oversman,—Mr. Wallace has finally decreed that the value of the ground due to the city is 3,370*l.* Witnesses on behalf of the city estimated it as worth 30,000*l.* The oversman decided on the principle of value to the sellers rather than to the buyers.

A VALUABLE BRICK.—A journeyman mason, lately employed on some repairs to a chimney in the Rue des France Bourgeois, Paris, while at work, broke up a brick which he found loose in the chimney, and, to his surprise, discovered that it was hollowed out, and contained a bank-note for 500 francs. The workman honestly communicated the fact to his employer, who called to mind that he had written his uncle, at Amsterdam, for money, and had received nothing but the brick in question, which he indignantly threw into the chimney, and wrote to his uncle an angry letter, to which no answer had been given. In Holland, it seems, hollow bricks are made on purpose to send small sums of money, as making a more secure package than any other.

WARNING AND VENTILATION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney has reported to the House that by a simple arrangement most of the evils complained of could be remedied at small expense, but he declines to enter further into the subject unless—"called in." We are told to expect that some curious evidence will be tendered to the committee after the recess.

IMPROVEMENT OF BRISTOL.—A special meeting of council was held on Wednesday last week, to consider the propriety of opening a new street from Temple-street to or near the terminus of the Great Western Railway, and of borrowing 10,000*l.* towards carrying out the improvement; but we regret to say that the resolution proposing the project, subject to subsequent revival, was lost by a majority of thirty-eight against six in favour of it.

TENDERS

Delivered for building Primitive Methodist Chapel, Hackney-road:—

Wythe (Kingland)	£1,987
Norris (Hackney)	1,570
Vaughan (Shoreditch)	1,329
Cranston (Newington)	984

The latter accepted, with an addition to his tender of 20*l.* making a total of 1,770*l.* A correspondent complains of the mode of proceeding; but we are unable to enter into it.

For erecting a villa residence, Addison-road, Kensington: Mr. Brown, architect:—

Symonds	£1,639
Watts	1,613
L'Anson	1,568
Higgs	1,546
G. Mansfield and Son	1,525
Browne	1,480

For the second design for a new station for the South-Western Railway, at Richmond:—

Piper	£4,070
Lovell	3,860
Carlson	3,406
Smith	3,338
Fraser and Son	3,797
T. Long and Son	3,604
Nicholson and Son	3,676
Little and Son	3,450
Grimesdell	3,848
Mills and Joy	3,830
Jay	3,463
Pollock and McLennan	3,380

For the rebuilding of a house in Hollis-street, under Mr. Marshall, architect:—

	Shop Front.	Total.
Messrs. L'Anson	£133	£2,099
Smith and Appleford	133	2,099
Mr. H. Burton	132	1,981
Messrs. Rogers	135	1,875

For four villas, in Elm-grove, Southsea, for Mr. Gibbons, Mr. A. F. Liversay, architect. Quantities provided.

Ayles (Portsmouth)	£3,366
King (Portsmouth)	3,130
Anderson (Portsmouth)	3,028
Heady (Portsmouth)	2,808
Davis (Southsea)	2,775
Cumwell (Portsmouth)	2,366